7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises applying [a] the configuration policy based on available system resources and needs at a given time.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises creating a table in [the] a configuration database to provide connection information to the system.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises establishing a partial record in [a pat h table and] a service end point table when a user connects to a particular port on a universal port card in the system.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the method further comprises: [transmitting data from] sending a notification based on the partial record[s] to a policy provisioning manager.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the system comprises a network device.

18. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration policy comprises a configuration policy file stored within the system.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the configuration policy file is stored within a configuration database within the system.

20. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration policy may be dynamically changed within the system while the system continues to operate.

21. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

changing established internal connection paths based upon a configuration policy and changing resource needs.

22. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the system comprises a network device.

23. (New) A computer system, comprising:

a cross-connection card comprising a plurality of programmable paths;

a configuration policy file stored within the computer system; and

a policy provisioning manager for programming the plurality of programmable paths using the configuration policy file.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the computer system is a network device.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 23, further comprising:

a plurality of forwarding cards including a plurality of ports coupled to the cross-connection card; and

a plurality of physical cards including a plurality of ports coupled to the cross-connection card, wherein the plurality of programmable paths connect ports of forwarding cards with particular ports of physical cards.

26. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

filling in the partial record with data from the policy provisioning manager.

27. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

implementing a connection policy to establish the path for data transmissions;